

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Nevada Medical Association, Reno, September 22 and 23, 1939. Horace J. Brown, M. D., Secretary, P. O. Box 689, Reno, Nevada.

Medical Broadcasts *

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of May is as follows:

Thursday, May 4—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.
Saturday, May 6—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health;
KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, May 11—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.
Saturday, May 13—KFI, 8:00 a. m., The Road of Health;
KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, May 18—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.
Saturday, May 20—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health;
KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, May 25—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.
Saturday, May 27—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health;
KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

The American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The first American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology is to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 11-15, 1939. This important meeting comes at a crucial time in American Medicine. The problems associated with human reproduction have become of paramount importance, arousing the intense interest of the public and the profession. The meeting will provide the first opportunity for all the interested groups of workers to assemble together. Doctors, nurses, hospital administrators and public health workers will meet and discuss their mutual problems and correlate their many ideas. A large and representative attendance is necessary to assure the success of this meeting. Already more than 1,400 advance registrations have been received.

We are anxious to have your JOURNAL participate in the medical publicity so that the physicians of your state can be apprised of the coming meeting. We have already had the support of many local and national medical publications. We would appreciate your official editorial comment concerning the meetings. If you could carry a notice of the meeting on the cover of your JOURNAL or in a prominent place in your future numbers, it would help considerably in creating interest among your physicians. Dr. T. Henshaw Kelly, your State Chairman and his committee will be delighted to cooperate with you in every way. For information, address M. Edward Davis, M. D., Publicity Committee, The Annex, 650 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

The American Dietetic Association. — The twenty-second annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association will be held at the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles, August 27 through the 31st, 1939.

Miss Mary Northrop, King's County Hospital, Seattle, Program Chairman, has already received acceptances from several well-known West Coast speakers.

Agnes Faye Morgan, Ph.D., of the University of California, will speak on "The Dietitian's Place in the Hospital Research Program"; Albert H. Rowe, M. D., Oakland, will speak on "Allergy"; E. Neige Todhunter, Ph.D., State College of Washington, will talk on "The Newer Knowledge of Vitamin C in Health and Diseases." For further information, address the American Dietetic Association, 185 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. — The forty-fourth annual convention of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology will be held in Chicago, October 8-13 at the Palmer House, a bulletin announces.

The academy has a membership of about 2,800 eye, ear, nose and throat specialists and the attendance at meetings is usually well over 2,000. It is said to be the largest organization of specialists in the United States.

About half the program is devoted to formal addresses, but fully half the week's activities consist of "instructional courses," in which the doctors go to school in earnest, with hundreds of eminent specialists as their instructors.

Dr. George M. Coates, Philadelphia, is president this year and Dr. Albert C. Snell, Rochester, New York, is president-elect. For information, address 1500 Medical Arts Building, Omaha, Nebraska.

1938 Said to Be Record Health Year.—The year 1938 is expected to establish an all-time record for low death rates from all causes in the United States, and particularly for tuberculosis, typhoid, diphtheria and infant mortality. This is set forth in a statement issued by the University of California Curricula in Public Health, prepared by Dr. Haven Emerson of the De Lamar Institute of Public Health of Columbia University.

"We are now in fact the possessors of better general health, are less afflicted with diseases known to be preventable, are more secure in the survival and growth of our offspring to maturity and have an average expectancy of life greater than that of any population group in the history of man," the statement said.

The statement suggests that the United States should further put its health house in order "by following the example of Canada and England and a score of other nations in consolidating all of their health services under one department, with a secretary for health in the national cabinet."

State and local health departments "are weary and bewildered by the duplicating and often conflicting proposals of unrelated bureaus and boards of Federal Government, each with ideas, standards and money grants with strings attached for health improvement," the statement said.

"That some people who need medical attention do not receive it will always be true, but the reasons for this are not all due to the inability of these sick to pay for the cost of necessary treatment. It may result from ignorance, superstitions and misinformation," the statement said.

American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.—The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons with the American Conference on Occupational Diseases and Industrial Hygiene will be held at the Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio, June 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1939. A program of timely interest and importance will be presented by speakers of outstanding experience in all of the medical and engineering problems involved in industrial health. A cordial invitation is extended to all whose interests bring them in contact with these problems. Information regarding hotel accommodations, etc., may be obtained from A. G. Park, Convention Manager, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Shock Therapy of Benefit But Needs Research.—The development of "shock" therapy for mental disorders is not at present the unbounded success that it has been called in some quarters, although it holds considerable promise and merits the continuation of active research. This is stated by Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, director of the New York Psychiatric Hospital, who visited here to advise with the University of California administration in the possible reorganization of the psychiatric services of the University's medical school here.

The use of insulin and the drug metrazol, an ally of camphor, as a therapeutic "shock" source in certain mental diseases has been found of benefit, Doctor Lewis said. However, it is necessary to confine the treatment to certain types of diseases and certain selected patients within these types, and extreme skill is necessary in both the selection of the patients and the administration of either drug, if untoward effects are to be avoided. When such care has been exercised the treatment may effect cures in 60 per cent of the cases treated.

The increase in mental patients has been rapid in the past few years for no exactly apparent reason, Doctor Lewis said. This increase has laid considerable new stress on the psychiatric and neurologic approach to disease in hospitals and has occasioned many new problems for the medical profession.

"We cannot lay this increase to economic unrest and the stresses and strains of life solely," Doctor Lewis said. "The average individual is being bombarded with new experiences and impressions which force him to live a lifetime in a few years. These developments are coming along apparently faster than the delicately balanced and highly organized human nervous system can handle them. It cannot properly integrate them in many instances apparently, and a breakdown follows.

"If the damage has not been too great, rest and a reversal of the former mode of life may be beneficial. Shock therapy is being tried in the more advanced cases with the results noted."

Endocrine Glands Subject of Special Course.—The human endocrine glands, sometimes called "the glands of personality," little masses of cells, controlling the emotions, love and sex, but which may also cause gigantism, dwarfism and other abnormalities, were made the subject of a recent short course for practicing physicians at the University of California Medical Center. The course was decided on in order to give the profession at large new information concerning these glands which has been developed in laboratories and research institutions in the last several months.

The glands are scattered throughout the body. From the blood these little masses of tissue abstract chemicals and transform them into secretions known as hormones. These hormones are poured back into the blood and the glands which produce them are therefore sometimes called glands

of internal secretion. The thyroid gland largely governs the rate and completeness with which the oxygen we breathe unites with and burns up foodstuffs. The parathyroids and the adrenals govern, in part at least, the absorption and use of minerals in bones and other tissues. The gonads give the powers and evidences of femininity and masculinity. Parts of the pancreas guide the storage and burning up of sugar in the body. The pituitary, the most complicated of all glands, has been called the "master gland," for its hormones seem to be needed by the other glands if they are to function in a healthy manner. The pituitary has a powerful influence over growth.

The remarkable progress that has been made in the study of endocrine gland function, and the treatment of gland disturbances in the past few years were thoroughly reviewed in the course. The necessity of having a trained physician prescribe glandular extracts was stressed.—University of California Clip Sheet.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Olson Backs Health Plan

Governor Olson last night devoted his regular Sunday night broadcast to a plea for the proposed compulsory state health insurance law—a measure which would burden California pay rolls with additional levies on both employer and employee.

The Governor pointed out the service would apply to all workers earning up to \$3,000 annually and would be financed by a 1 per cent contribution from each worker's salary, plus contributions up to 2 per cent from employers.

He characterized the plan as "a central policy of my administration" and interpreted it as an economy measure in as much as it "will reduce the cost of relief by reducing sickness that finally makes wage earners destitute."—San Francisco *Examiner*, April 10.

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Health Insurance

In his talk broadcast Sunday, Governor Olson said his health program to be financed by a pay roll tax should be adopted because there is need of better health protection. There are many pressing needs, among them modern prisons to take the place of prisons making first offenders habitual criminals, provide hospital facilities for the insane, adequate aid to the blind and crippled to enable them to be self supporting. Yet they must be postponed because no government can satisfy all social needs.

The New Deal tried to do it, with the result tax burdens have become so heavy they exceed the capacity of industry to carry them. Measures designed to aid the ill-nourished, ill-clad and ill-housed, have made their condition worse because they reduced employment in private industry.

The most important welfare interest in California is restoring employment. Taxes are already so high many employers are compelled to reduce their employees to keep out of the red. Another pay roll tax for health would swell the ranks of the unemployed.

The people now have a health service equal to the best in the world. A voluntary group insurance program is being worked out to improve it. Assuming Governor Olson's health program to be desirable, it should be postponed until a sound recovery is achieved.—San Jose *Mercury-Herald*, April 11.

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Health Laws Urged

Olson Upholds Insurance Bills

Examiner Bureau, Sacramento, April 13.—Governor Culbert L. Olson today sent to the Legislature a strong recommendation for passage of two compulsory health insurance bills, drafted by Labor's Non-Partisan League and incorporated in the administration's legislative program.

Arguing for the measure, which would be financed through new pay roll taxes, deductions from wage earners' checks and a general fund contribution from the state, Olson said:

"A fundamental change is needed in the method of meeting the costs of medical care and the risks and loss of sickness, especially for wage earners and others of small or moderate income."

Medical organizations have expressed opposition to Olson's proposal as opening the way for "state medicine," while considerable protest has been heard from small business men, complaining against added pay roll taxes. De-